the Central Team was considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG). The High Level Committee (HLC) considered the request of the State Government, the report of the Central Team, the recommendations of the IMG thereon and the approved items and norms of assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and thereafter approved:—

(a) Rs. 375.53 crore for flood relief subject to the funds available for instant calamity in the CRF account of the State.

(b) 1.84 lakh MT rice (costing Rs. 220.80 crore) under Special Component of SGRY for relief employment.

(c) Rs. 9.25 crore from Special component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for repair/restoration of damaged rural drinking water supply scheme.

(d) The cost of transportation of fodder, animal feed and medicines by the Railways, on actual basis.

(e) The cost of deployment of IAF helicopters for rescue and relief operations, on actual basis.

The Government of Bihar informed that an amount of Rs. 185.01 crore was available in the CRF account of the State Government as on 18th August, 2004 for instant calamity. As per the laid down procedure applicable to all States, 75% of the amount *i.e.* Rs. 138.76 crore was adjusted against the approved amount of Rs. 375.53 crore and balance amount of Rs. 236.77 crore was released from the NCCF to the Government of Bihar.

With regard to restoration of damaged infrastructure, the Schemes of CRF/NCCF provide that expenditure on restoration of infrastructure, except those which are intrinsically connected with relief operations and restoration of immediate connectivity with the affected area and population, is required to be met from the Plan funds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Price of Indian Coffee

1729. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Indian coffee has doubled during the last 6 to 8 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the high international prices give a chance for the Indian coffee industry to boost its export;

(d) if so, the likely export of coffee to different countries during the current year; and

(e) the income likely to be generated from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) There has been a substantial increase in coffee prices in recent months compared to the overall position last year. This is in view of the global demand and supply position.

(c) The export of Indian coffee is not entirely dependent on international prices of coffee. India in any case exports about 75% of its coffee. The actual export of coffee depends largely on the production and domestic consumption of coffee in the country.

(d) and (e) Export of coffee in the current year is presently estimated to be around 200000 MTs, the value of which is estimated to be around US $ 320 million.

Effect of lifting quantitative ban on import of consumer commodities

† 1730. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to lift the quantitative ban imposed on the import of consumer commodities;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that by the said action domestic production of consumer commodities will get a setback; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government for the development of the domestic industry?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.